



NEWS

National Nuclear Security Administration
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Secretary Abraham Announces Completion of Security Upgrades at Uzbekistan Nuclear Facility

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the U.S. Department of State have completed a cooperative effort with the Republic of Uzbekistan to install additional physical security improvements at a nuclear facility near Tashkent.

NNSA, a semi-autonomous agency of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), recently completed the improvements at the Institute of Nuclear Physics in Uzbekistan. Personnel from NNSA's Office of Nonproliferation and International Security, the State Department's Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund, Sandia National Laboratory and the Uzbek Institute of Nuclear Physics participated.

DOE Secretary Spencer Abraham said that the recent upgrades are part of an overall nonproliferation effort that is among his highest priorities. "The efforts of Uzbek officials were crucial in furthering international nonproliferation and counter terrorism efforts. By increasing security at this location we have contributed to improving the national security of the United States and others in the international community," he said.

NNSA Acting Administrator Linton Brooks agreed, adding, "Nuclear materials security is a worldwide problem. While the responsibility for progress in nuclear and radiological security falls on the shoulders of individual nations, NNSA will continue assisting in improving security and fostering nonproliferation."

The upgrades advance the Bush administration's nonproliferation goal of increasing the security and control of nuclear materials. Better security at the Institute became an urgent concern when terrorism risks escalated in the region.

The improvements include an enhanced security perimeter that contains special fencing, exterior intrusion detection sensors, cameras, and lights installed around the research reactor at the Institute of Nuclear Physics.

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